

clarke college

COURIER

Feb. 5, 2009

dubuque, iowa

Vol. LXXV

Issue No. Six

IBM offers future jobs for grads

ali herbst
staff writer

The current state of the economy has caused a multitude of anxiety about job openings and job security. For Dubuque residents that tension has been eased. After months of searching for a location, IBM announced January 15 that it will be opening a new technology service delivery center in Dubuque. IBM, incorporated in 1911, is presenting an opportunity for 1,300 positions to be filled by the end of 2010.

"IBM's decision to relocate a portion of its operations to Dubuque is a testament to the strength of our community and surrounding communities," said Clarke President Joanne Burrows. "It speaks to what Dubuque is at its core - a smaller city with big opportunities."

This all began last summer with a phone call of inquiry regarding types of buildings Dubuque has to offer for businesses. IBM executives made two field visits to Dubuque in October and December. The process of choosing Dubuque was a long one, and many people were involved.

Representatives from six local and surrounding colleges met with the IBM executives and gave a short presentation on why Dubuque would be a good choice.

IBM said it was very impressed with the attitude of area officials,

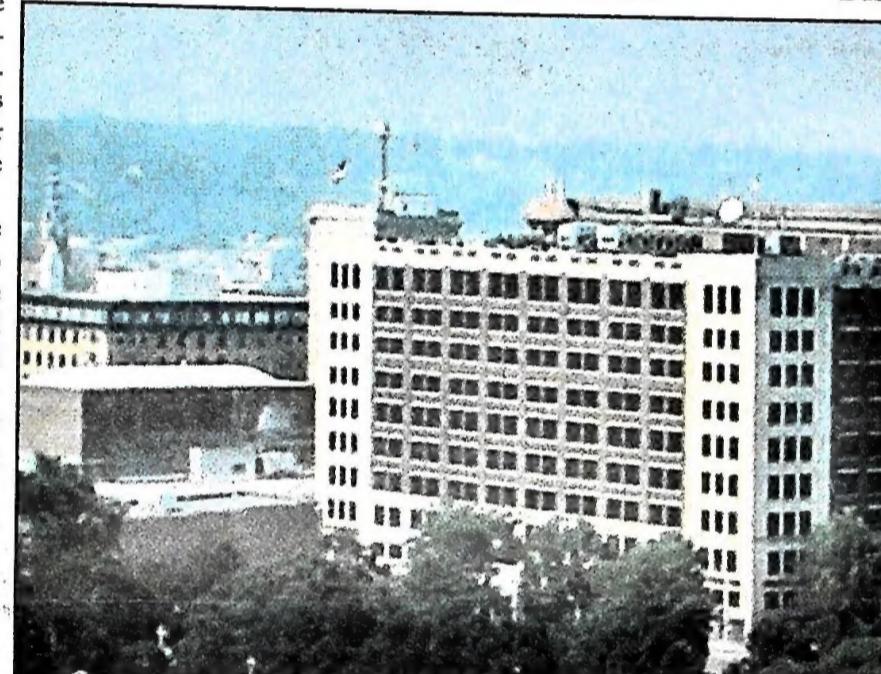
which was one of the reasons it chose Dubuque. Other reasons were the talent and skills available in Iowa and the Midwest as well as the opportunity for potential employees due to the educational resources in the area.

Months of planning and collaboration between IBM with the City of Dubuque, Dubuque Initiatives, and the Greater Dubuque Development Corporation finally paid off. IBM plans to open the Dubuque service center in early summer.

IBM signed a 10-year lease and will be located downtown on Locust, in the Dubuque Building. This 1929 building will undergo renovations before IBM's opening. The renovations will maintain the historic quality of the structure while using energy-efficient technology to make it more environmentally friendly.

IBM plans to work with colleges in Iowa, Illinois and Wisconsin for recruitment and training of potential employees. It also plans to partner with Tri-state schools to enhance the curriculum of technology programs to better prepare students for careers in the IT field.

Continued on Page 2



The Dubuque Building, previously the Roshek Brothers Department Store, will be the new home of IBM in Dubuque.

Clarke closes lid on peanut butter scare

elaine miller
staff writer

It's peanut butter jelly time! Peanut Butter jelly! Peanut butter jelly with a baseball bat! No, actually it might just have to be jelly, thanks to the current scare about peanut butter products.

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) inspected the peanut butter and paste at a Peanut Corp. of America processing plant in Georgia finding Salmonella typhimurium. The company sold its products to nearly 70 food manufacturers for use as an ingredient in cookies, crackers, cereal, candy, pet food and ice cream.

There have been more than 500 cases of Salmonella poisonings in humans and pets along with 6 deaths reported according to www.NPR.org as recalls of tainted peanut butter products expand.

Clarke College's Matt Ricketts says, "Our current food distributor, SYSCO foods, monitors all of our purchases and looks out for any manufacturers' recalls. We are notified immediately if there are any problems with any of our products we are purchasing. If there is a potential problem with any item, they will immediately pull it out of their warehouse so it is unable to get to the customer. We have been assured that at this time, it does not affect the products which we are purchasing."

Some popular peanut butter products are

being recalled such as; Luna-brand bars containing peanut butter, NutriPals peanut butter chocolate bars, Little Debbie Peanut Butter Toasty sandwich crackers, Kellogg's peanut butter crackers and cereals, and nearly all Keebler and General Mills products, pet foods containing peanut butter, and many more.

According to www.MayoClinic.org, symptoms of food poisoning begin with nausea and vomiting and progress to abdominal pains and diarrhea. Additional symptoms include fever, chills and muscle pains. These symptoms can last from several days to two weeks. Salmonella itself isn't life-threatening, but can weaken the immune system and the development of complications can be dangerous.

The FDA recommends consumers not eat products that are assumed to be tainted and throw them away in a manner that prevents others from eating them.

People who have consumed peanut butter and are feeling ill need to consult their doctors as soon as possible. To find out more about what's being recalled and to see the precautions the FDA suggests going to its website, www.accessdata.fda.gov/scripts/peanutbuttermrecall/index.cfm.



Meet employers at Dubuque Live!

ali herbst
staff writer

To help students faced with job-hunting anxiety in today's economy, the Dubuque Area Chamber of Commerce is sponsoring a career fair targeted toward juniors and seniors, but open to all college students, in order to raise awareness of local job and internship opportunities.

Dubuque Live! will be held in Clarke's Student Activity Center on Feb. 12, from 4:30-6:30 p.m. Representatives from local businesses will be present to offer information about their company. A total of 12 employers will attend including Cottingham & Butler, Prudential Retirement, US Bank, DuTrac Community Credit Union, American Trust & Savings Bank, Mercy Hospital, Dubuque Data Services, Dubuque Community Schools, Holy Family Schools, City of Dubuque, John Deere, and AccessDubuqueJobs.com.

There will be time allowed for networking where students will have the opportunity to introduce themselves to the employers and to ask questions about the companies. Pizza will be offered following the event.

"We are facing tough economic times," said Kristi Gimmel Becker, director of Career Services at Clarke. "Instead of letting anxiety take over, students need to be proactive and meet the challenge of finding a job. This is a great opportunity to meet potential employers."

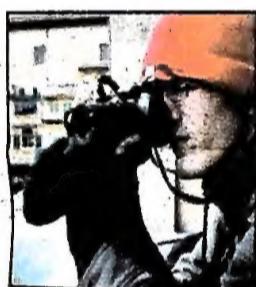
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campus life



"Party with a Purpose"

arts etc.



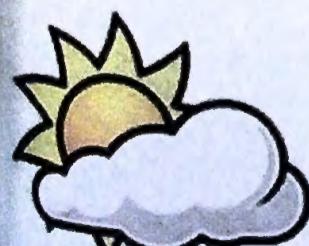
Clarke students capture Italy

sports



Jerusalem Strickland cheers on the Steelers

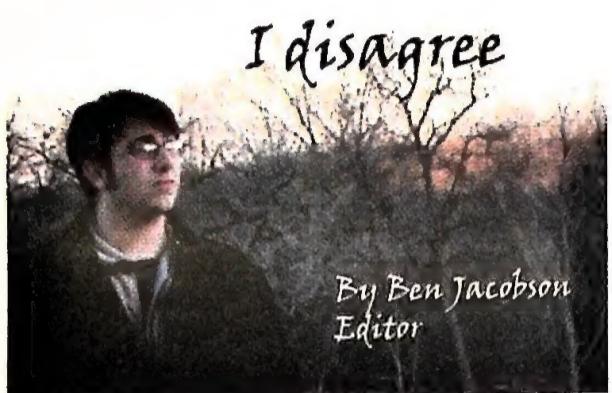
weather



High 33°
Low 22°

OPINION

Feb. 5, 2009



By Ben Jacobson
Editor

When I was a wee little lad, I was a huge fan of John Travolta. This was due primarily to his performance in "Grease." Sometimes, when I was in elementary school, I would leap up on the bleachers during recess and start singing "Summer Nights" and dancing wildly. Unfortunately, this behavior often led to wedges from my more macho peers and brain injuries from falling down on metal bleachers, so I had to stop. But I still idolized Mr. Travolta. But then came Scientology. And "Battlefield Earth." And "Hairspray."

The point is, everybody lets you down eventually. Despite Travolta's past successes, his more recent failures permanently tarnished my opinion of him. Similarly, no matter how desperately you love newly inaugurated President Obama, at some point during his presidency, you will think he's a jerk.

I know it's difficult to hear, as his euphoric election reached the same emotional peaks of the fall of the Berlin Wall or the end of World War II or the defeat of Lord Voldemort, but you need to be prepared. In fact, I believe that President Obama has already shown that his fall from grace is inevitable.

The first thing that concerns me is the president's arrogant refusal to surrender his Blackberry. I'm sure some of you out there are saying "OMG WHY CAN'T OBAMA HAVE A CELL PHONE WHEN WE NORMAL INSIGNIFICANT PEONS ARE ALLOWED TO HAVE ONE????? I MEAN SERIOUSLY LOL???"

To this I say, calm down. There is no need to speak in capital letters. If you or I send a text message that gets intercepted, it is rarely a matter of national security because most of us have the same political sway and governmental authority as a miniature dachshund. The same cannot be

said of the president of the United States.

President Obama claims that he will "be careful" about what he sends, but I'm not convinced. Maybe someday he'll be at a presidential function where alcohol is served and maybe have a few too many and accidentally text over nuclear launch codes to the Iranian government.

The other thing that concerns me is the potential closing of Guantanamo Bay and what will happen to those currently detained there. I can't help but fear that if the suspected terrorists imprisoned at Gitmo are sent back to their countries of origin, they will return to their day jobs which, unfortunately, primarily involve trying to blow us up. I guess I can't speak for the rest of the nation or President Obama, but this would be a really inconvenient time for me to explode. I've got plans this weekend.

It's obviously too soon to say that Barack Obama's presidency is a failure. He may well turn out to be the greatest leader since Richard Nixon or Patrick Swayze in "Road Dawn." But remember, no matter how much hope and faith you put into our current president, he is still a politician.

IBM comes to Dubuque, continued from page 1

"The Dubuque community is seeing a renewed interest and appreciation of Information Technology careers," said Sheila Castaneda, chair of the Clarke computer science department. "With average starting salaries of \$43,000 at IBM's newest service center, these 1,300 new IT jobs will provide possibilities for our graduates at a scale that hasn't been seen in the area before."

Executives have expressed interest in setting up internship opportunities for area colleges, providing students with experience working for a worldwide corporation.

"From an educational perspective, we look forward to the new internship opportunities and exposure to the most cutting-edge technologies that our students will surely benefit from," said Burrows. "In that same spirit of innovation, and combined with our forward-thinking

adult and graduate programs, Clarke College is dedicated to preparing graduates for careers of success in a rapidly changing workplace."

An IBM information day will be held at the Grand River Center on February 11 from 5 to 8 p.m. Representatives from IBM will give a presentation about the new facility and will be taking questions. Tickets are not necessary for students; however IBM is requesting a list of students planning to attend. If interested in going, please sign up on the job board near the elevator on the second floor of CBH by Thursday, February 12th.

Students can look at the positions currently being filled on IBM's website, or can apply for these positions at www.accessdubuquejobs.com. For more information about the CIS major/minor, please contact Sheila Castaneda.

From the Editors Dave Tucker and Ben Jacobson

Hello Clarke students, faculty and staff! Welcome back to another semester. The Courier is a student-produced newspaper for the Clarke community. We will be here keeping you updated on the latest news on campus, in Dubuque and in the nation. Your comments, criticisms or suggestions are welcome as this is your paper. We would love to hear from you. Send your letters to the editors to dave.tucker@clarke.edu or benjamin.jacobson@clarke.edu.



Dubuque Live Job Fair, continued from page 1

Dubuque Live! is an event not to be taken lightly. Students should come prepared in professional attire or business casual dress. Also, it is a good idea for students to bring resumes to leave with employers from the companies they may be interested in working for.

Along with resumes, it is wise to bring a notebook and pen to write down points of interest or questions. Students should prepare a one-minute introduction to approach the representatives with. The introduction should include name, year, major, type of opportunities the student is seeking, related work experience, and questions about the position.

The Career Services team is available for those who would like help preparing for this event, including organizing their resume or putting together an introduction. Students can send an e-mail to careerservices@clarke.edu or call 588-6302 to schedule an appointment.

Networking Tips

1. Make direct eye contact.
2. Give a firm handshake.
3. Have a positive attitude.
4. Make a positive first impression.
5. Share some information about yourself.
6. Ask questions- show interest in the position.
7. Follow up with the employer within 2-3 business days.

clarke college COURIER

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The Courier is a student-produced newspaper for the Clarke community. Opinions expressed herein do not necessarily reflect the opinions for the faculty, staff or administration of the college. The Courier welcomes input from members of the Clarke Community. Please send comments to MS 1801, Clarke College. Letters must be signed and may be edited for content and length.

Feb. 5, 2009

PARTY WITH A PURPOSE

Although the two hundred eager students, faculty and guests gathered in the SAC could not match the numbers of the Inaugural crowd in D.C., they matched their anticipation for a new era of change. Sophomore Katie Graham was there even though she does not live on campus. "This felt like an event that should be celebrated with others," she said. Most students could not help but be excited about the occasion. "So far we have had a war, an economy crash and 9/11. This feels like the first positive event that happened to our generation," said Joe Turek, a junior art major.

-Justin Curry, junior

Before the Clarke inaugural gathering, volunteers in the SAC were passing out boxes of tissues for those who might be overcome by tears of happiness. There were people huddled around the TV's, and though they may have been silent, you could tell this was an event that will not only be in the history books but one that everyone there will never forget. Some of the older people appeared to hold back tears. This once-in-a-lifetime event created a sense of hope and unity that won't be soon forgotten. -Aaron Rhomberg, junior

On inauguration day in the SAC students and staff hurried in from the cold: hats, gloves, coats, and backpacks intact, asking one another if they had missed anything; sighing with relief when they were reassured Obama had not yet spoken. Anticipation grew stronger as the presidential speech grew nearer. A brief image of the Obamas' young daughters flashed on the TV screen as they watched their father's every move. The innocent image of the girls caused two young women to exchange smiles. The moment was captivating and monumental, and as Obama said, "What is required of us now is a new era of responsibility — recognition, on the part of every American, that we have duties to ourselves, our nation, and the world..." -Heather Haas, junior



photo by kylee miller



photo by kylee miller

On Tuesday, Jan. 20 around 11 a.m. there was not a single TV in the SAC that did not have a crowd of people around it excitingly watching the inauguration of Barack Obama. Everyone scrambled to find a spot. International students stopped to ask what was going on, and stayed to watch. Students stopped eating to watch the TV; Crusader Cafe orders were not announced over the intercom. Everyone was silent while watching the president being sworn in, but you could clearly see the smiles on their faces, as many nodded their heads in agreement. Afterward students went to class, faculty and staff went back to work in their classrooms and offices, but all walked away excited and with hope in their eyes and smiles on their faces.

-Molly McCormick, sophomore

In the SAC dozens of students, faculty and staff gathered to watch as history unfolded. It seemed that the room was holding its breath as Obama put his hand on the Bible to be sworn in. The room burst into applause. Some were crying tears of joy, while others were shaking their heads in silent dismay. Whether they had voted for Obama or not, no one could deny the historical significance of the moment. -Eric Boldger, sophomore

We lined our streets. We crammed into the nearest bar. We called off work, skipped class, just to take in the history that was taking place. Such was the scene across the United States on the morning of January 20. So too was the scene in the SAC here on campus, as we witnessed history, as we became history. Barack Obama was to become the first African-American to be sworn in as President of the United States. At 10 months, Aiden Ehlinger, grandson of Penny Ehlinger, program coordinator of Americorp at Clarke, didn't understand why everyone's eyes were glued to the nearest television set. "I brought him so I could tell him one day that he was a witness to history," said Ehlinger. Aiden will not remember, as I will, the elderly woman sitting just yards away in tears of joy. And he won't remember the mass of people that gathered on the Clarke campus to take in a moment that will never repeat itself. But one day he will know of its significance. -Brenden West, sophomore

Clarke student attends inauguration

kylee miller
sports editor

Two million people from all over the country and the world traveled to Washington D.C. and braved the cold in order to hear President Obama take the oath of office. One of those 2 million was John Thara, a sophomore here at Clarke. "I got there at 8 p.m. on Monday night and stayed through 1 p.m. Tuesday." Thara said. "I was about a mile and a half away, which was as close as

you could get without a ticket." His leadership conference group, the University Presidential Inauguration Conference, invited Thara back to D.C. for the inauguration.

"I thought that because I'm from Chicago I would be able to handle the cold, but it was still really bad," Thara said. "I thought it was a very nice speech." Thara continued. "He said exactly what he wanted done over the next

four years and I think he can do it."

For Clarke students unable to physically attend the inauguration there was the Party with a Purpose in the SAC. President Obama's inauguration, speech, and the parade were shown on the big screen.

"I think he'll focus on what people are requesting, and he'll be smart about it too. He won't just hand out money," said Nancy Cervantes, a member of the Latin Ameri-

can Student Association (LASA).

LASA members handed out Obama pencils and pins and asked partygoers to write letter to be sent to Washington D.C. to inform President Obama of our many hopes, fears, and needs.

"Obama has really empowered minorities, but we need to look hard at the economy, housing for the poor, and immigration," Cervantes said. "Racism only gets

worse when the economy is bad."

Minority and immigrant issues are especially important to Cervantes who comes from Texas. "I have family here from Mexico," she said. "They should be taken care of too. I really hope he does well. I'm just glad he's finally in office."

CAMPUS LIFE

Feb. 5, 2009

CLEAN adds recycling bins to dorm rooms

tina fry
extras editor

There was a general excitement in the air as Clarke freshman Laura Blocklinger returned to her dorm following Christmas break. As final things were moved in, she felt uneasy as she realized that she was not alone. The hairs on the back of her neck stood up as she examined her surroundings. Yes, she thought, there was something different in the dorm. There was a visitor, and it looked like it was going to stay: a small, blue recycling bin.

Unbeknownst to Laura, during break, CLEAN, a campus organization dedicated to saving the environment, put individual recycling bins in all of the dorms and eliminated the large bins that formerly were in the bathrooms. The bins come complete with a list of items that can and cannot be recycled, such as plastic, paper, etc.

"The most obvious reason is to get people to recycle, of course, since the task requires such little effort," said Lynn Kious, president of CLEAN. "In addition, we hope that people can be more aware of their actions, specifically in making eco-friendly decisions."

Kious has been a member of CLEAN for two years and has been president since last fall. This recycling initiative has been made possible through Campus Ministry funds. CLEAN was managed by that organization in the past.

Kious said CLEAN has other ideas for the future here at Clarke. One plan for next year is water bottles with Clarke's logo that could be used on campus and would be distributed to incoming freshmen. "I believe that there will also be certain incentives that come with this, such as discounted prices on fountain pop when the container is used," said Kious.

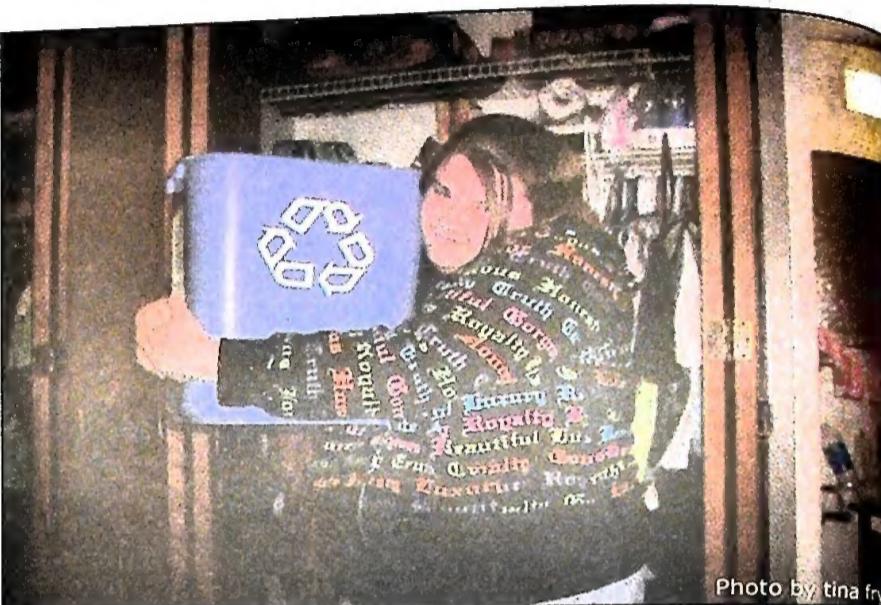


Photo by tina fry

Laura Blocklinger hugs the new addition to her room. CLEAN added recycling bins to the dorm rooms after Christmas break to do their part to save the environment.

Students wear orange for AIDS awareness

elaine miller
staff writer

On Friday, January 23, Clarke sold orange T-shirts for \$5 to help the children in Sub-Saharan Africa affected by AIDS. Every shirt sold represented 100,000 African children orphaned by AIDS.

"We sold almost to our goal and every student wore them on that day," Justine Ehlers, a senior communications major, said. "It was nice to see the dedication the students had towards the issue and that they were wearing them for the children and not just as a fashion statement," Ehlers said.

A scary 25 million adults and children have died due to AIDS and another 30 million are currently living with the disease in Sub-Saharan Africa. Life expectancies have fallen below 40 years in some countries when the average life span is already 60 years for people without AIDS.

In 2007, 2.6 million adults and children died and 2.5 million became infected with HIV. More than 15 million children under the age of 18 have been orphaned because of AIDS. Almost 11.6 million of them live in Sub-Saharan Africa. In Zambia and Botswana, nearly 20 percent of the children under the age of 17 are orphaned because one or both of their parents died of AIDS.

"It was a new way of informing people of the

issues instead of force feeding them the information," said Ehlers. "They were able to participate in an actual event that took no more time than getting dressed in the morning."

For more information about how to fight AIDS in Africa, go to www.aidsandafrica.com or www.aidsinafrica.com.

Laura Gaylord presents a poster to inform students about the orange events.



photo by kylee miller

Senior Elizabeth Kustusch sells orange shirts in the cafeteria to help children in Africa affected by AIDS.



photo by kylee miller

Sean Bradley to offer mathematical approach to life in Mackin-Mailander lecture

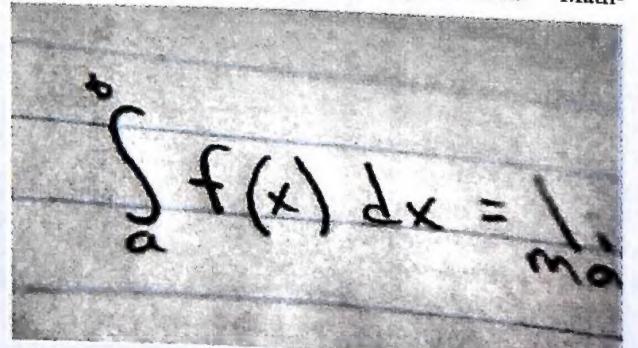
lacey reynolds
campus life editor

If you thought mathematics was nothing but a confusing cluster of triangles, fractions and equations, associate professor of mathematics Sean Bradley is ready to show you that math is actually a bigger part of your life than you may realize. Bradley has been chosen to present the second piece of this year's three-part Mackin-Mailander Lecture Series on Tuesday, Feb. 10 at 7:30 in the Jansen Music Hall.

His lecture is titled "Telling Tales Out of School: The World as a Classroom," and, not surprisingly, he plans to take a mathematical approach to the event. "My idea is to tell some stories of what's been learned from teaching and learning math, and also from my life experiences as a way of exploring our places in this world," he said. "Of course, I can't help but think mathematically about some things."

Bradley hopes to convey to students that math is not

only algebra, geometry and statistics. "What might surprise people is that sometimes thinking mathematically can help us become more aware of some of the patterns of our lives, how we think and act," he said. "Math-



ematics relates to our lives in very important ways."

In addition to discussing his mathematical theories, Bradley wants students to hear about his experiences as a Peace Corps volunteer in Sierra Leone in the 1980s. His family also spent two years volunteering in American Samoa a few years ago where he volunteered as a teacher.

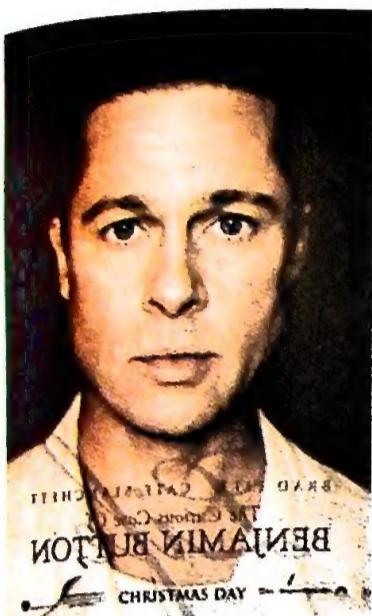
"These are times of my life that were very exciting and continue to teach me a lot," Bradley said. "I think lots of students would love to do the same kind of thing when they graduate, if they only knew more about it."

Bradley said he hopes to say something about the topic in a way a mathematics teacher who loves to learn might say it. "That's a big part of who I am," he said.

Feb. 5, 2009

Benjamin Button: The Predictable Case of an Over-Hyped Movie

brenden west
staff writer



You've seen this movie before. It was made in 1993, starring Tom Hanks. You know, born with a deficiency, abandoned by his father, works on a boat with a lusty captain, goes to war, has a distinct southern drawl, refers to "Momma," hooks up with his childhood sweetheart with whom it was "love at first sight," constantly flashes back to his past. All taking place over the course of three hours.

But the director thinks that by calling this film a name other than "Forrest Gump," he can pull the wool over our eyes. And just to cover his tracks, he throws in pedophile undertones and the fact that Ben ages backwards.

That's what you're getting when you see "The Curious Case of Benjamin Button;" a movie that is a carbon copy of "Forrest Gump" without the unpredictable and exciting life. That's where Ben comes into his own. Even the war he joins, World War II, is portrayed as just another happening in

the dull dull life of the man who ages in reverse. Even Ben proclaims in his monotonous Louisiana tone, "If there was a war, we didn't see it."

What makes Benjamin appealing? Well, the director of this film really wants you to understand that he lives in a nursing home. That's why for the first hour of this three-hour time sink, Ben never goes anywhere. He's submissive, keeps to himself, lives a normally unrealistic lifestyle in which he doesn't have a consistent job, has sex seemingly every day, drives a motorcycle, and looks exactly like Brad Pitt, who might be sort of attractive. His greatest struggle is, of course, the fact that only he can age backwards, but that's not even really portrayed as a struggle.

In the film, we constantly run into characters that we believe to be important, but we never hear from them again. We see symbols that make us believe that somehow the film will tie everything together in the end, but it doesn't. The flat central character and unrealistic conflicts make it impossible for us to connect to and relate to Ben. And through the last hour, as he inches (ever so gradually) closer to death, we begin to realize that there will be

Clint's Gran Torino

aaron rhomberg
staff writer

In the film "Gran Torino" Clint Eastwood gives a performance that reflects his earlier work such as in "A Fistful of Dollars," "Unforgiven," and "Dirt Harry." Eastwood gives a raw and powerful performance as a racist Korean War veteran, Walt Kowalski, who reluctantly befriends Hmong immigrants who live next door after they are threatened by local gang members. The movie shows not only heroism but that people are able to change their ways. Friendship is also strongly emphasized as the movie progresses.

What worked: Eastwood shows the audience the intensity which he has brought to other characters in his heyday, but what really makes the story seem real is his relationship with Thao played by Bee Vang. He sets up the story when the quiet neighborhood kid is forced to steal Kowalski's prized Gran Torino by the gang. The most fascinating part of the whole picture is the friendship that develops

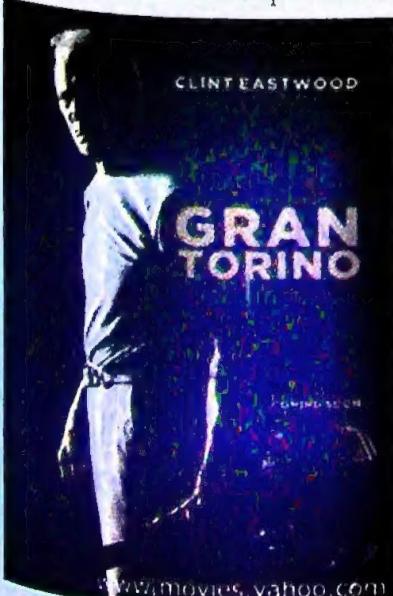
between Thao, and Kowalski.

In the beginning Thao is forced to help Kowalski out because Thao's sister feels her brother disgraced her family by resorting to thievery. Slowly, as the two get to know each other, they realize that they have a lot in common. When this happens Kowalski begins to show compassion for his new friend while at the same time getting a new sense of life. He also helps Thao land a job at a construction site to help him not only gain confidence but make the transition into adulthood.

The climactic ending is one that will be remembered not only by fans but film students because of how Eastwood is able to build tension and suspense and able to surprise the audience with something they were not expecting. Eastwood also reveals why he is a great director by setting up powerful scenes, which draw out the best performances from his actors.

What didn't work: There were only a few things that could have made the movie stronger. First, is the relationship that Kowalski has with his kids and his grand kids. It is depicted in the film as a rocky relationship, but it only vaguely goes into why there is tension with the family. There could have been more focus on how the relationship turned sour. Another problem is the pacing of the film which at times begins to drag.

Overall: This is a film that will be remembered long after Eastwood retires. "Gran Torino" convinces the audience that he is not only one of our best actors, but also a great director. It will be hard for him to top this kind of performance. There is a rumor that this could be his final acting performance; if that's true he gave us one great last performance.



no big twist, that there is nothing curious at all about this film. What keeps you from leaving your seat is the cost of movie tickets these days.

Why would you see this movie?

Maybe you would like to know what it's like to be Ben Button. Answer: He's born, he lives, he falls in love, and he dies, in the dullest, most uneventful way.

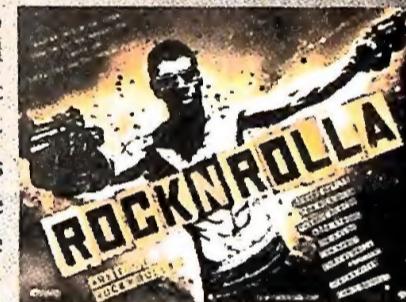
Maybe you want to know what all of the hype is about. Answer: This film fits the formula of what an Oscar film should look like. It has the big-name star, the length, the musical score, and a plot that should be interesting. It's even narrated by an old woman ready to die like the 1997 blockbuster "Titanic." The problem is, that plot isn't interesting. It's "Forrest Gump," except that literally nothing happens.

Maybe you want to find out how best to utilize a theater headrest during this movie. Answer: Whenever you feel the urge to fall asleep (which I felt one hour into this lifeless saga), slam the back of your head against the cushion. The shock from this exercise should allow you to stay awake for a good five minutes before "The Curious Case of Benjamin Button" bores you right back to slumber.

Now on DVD

dave tucker
editor

RocknRolla: The newest fast-talking, criminal caper film from British director Guy Ritchie. I'm a huge fan of his early work ("Lock, Stock and Two Smoking Barrels," and "Snatch"), but his latest two films have left me wishing he would return to his roots. With "RocknRolla," he does so wholeheartedly. Intelligent writing, likable scum-bags, excellent music, and fast-paced action put RocknRolla right alongside his previous best. Some critics have complained that this movie is just more of the same, which, if you're a fan of Ritchie's movies, shouldn't be a problem at all.



Max Payne: If you've seen the trailer to this film, you might as well stop yourself right there. It presents the tried-and-true revenge plotline, in a cool, film-noir style, complete with a creepy music track by Marilyn Manson and flying Valkyrie creatures swooping down and snatching up drug dealers and pedestrians. The movie, however, manages to ruin all of these interesting-looking concepts by throwing them into a dull, muddled and completely forgettable mess that came off like it was the bastard-child of five different story ideas, all thrown together in a patchwork of unoriginality.

Saw V: I'll be the first one to say that while the original "Saw" is one of the most original, well-thought out horror films of the last decade, the tireless sequels have done nothing but ruin and remove all the mystery and appeal of their predecessor. So, needless to say, I went into "Saw V" expecting not only to hate it, but to hate it with a passion reserved only for nameless corporations who will destroy a good idea in an attempt to franchise it and make as much money as they can with it. Imagine my surprise when it wasn't the absolute worst thing I had watched that week (ahem, Max Payne)... I mean, it was a bad film, of course, but at least I could say it felt like a film and not just supplemental material from the first two movies. And while it did the usual, overly-healthy dose of flashback to stuff we've already seen, at least it attempted to move forward with a little more originality. I'll say it flat out, Jigsaw is not an interesting villain. He's an amazingly droll, one-dimensional hypocrite. Unfortunately, his protégé suffers from the stereotypical cardboard cut-out characterization reserved for everyone else in the saw films too. And it doesn't help that the hero and the villain of the film look and sound identical. So, despite my endless amount of criticism for the most recent entry to the series, I can honestly say, it was actually better than expected. Not much better, mind you, but you've watched them this far...



clarke courier

Feb. 5, 2009

Clarke students take in culture, art and history

justin curry
art etc. editor

While most students during break were stuck at home glued to the TV, shoveling the driveway or having a ball working their 8-5; 15 Clarke students had the opportunity to do something different over their Christmas break. They toured Italy. From Dec. 27-Jan. 6 the students saw Florence, spent an afternoon in Siena and also went to Rome. A lot of the planning was done by Bryan Zygmont, assistant profes-

sor of art, who had already traveled to Italy twice before.

Zygmont was excited to take students to Italy. The tour was guided by Witte Travel, the same agency that guided the Clarke student trip to Ireland.

Zygmont jokes that whatever art work he shows in his class is the same size because everything is the same size on the projector, but now he enjoys showing students in his art history class pictures of

the Vatican and they nod in understanding.

"I didn't encounter any surprises but I could see that students did," Zygmont said. "I didn't have to be worried; our students represented Clarke and America well. Most foreigners expect Americans to be rambunctious and out of control, but they were well behaved and very respectful at all times."

Joe Turek, junior art major, enjoyed his first time out of the country.

"The trip was easy going and un-stressful" Turek said. "My favorite place had to be the Borghese Museum in Italy because of the beautiful art work."

If I could do one thing differently I would not let the tour guides direct us around the museums. I would let the students just roam the galleries" said Zygmont.

Kristina Nesteby, junior art major, had similar thoughts.

"The tour guides were okay," she said. "It was a bit of a hassle sometimes because we had to stay with them even if we wanted to wander off.. The good part is we were able to hear in-depth information about the cities or artists."

Zygmont said, "My favorite place

had to be the city of Florence, everywhere is so walkable and there are fewer tourists. You can find moments in the day where there is no one around."

Nesteby added, "I knew we were going to visit a lot of places and see a lot of art, but it was quite overwhelming (in a good way). There's just so much to take in. The culture. The art."

"I had two goals this trip, bring everyone back safely and to do it again," said Zygmont. He said he would like to go somewhere again in 2010. "I want to go somewhere the students haven't gone yet, and I would like to do it before they graduate" he said. "I am hoping to go somewhere like

Paris and Amsterdam.

The trips are available to all Clarke students and are a great way to see some historic art work and architecture, take in a different culture or maybe just get out of the hills of Dubuque.



Participants of the Clarke Italy tour outside the Colosseum in Rome.



Clarke students strolling the streets of Italy.

Clarke webcasts

aaron thomberg
staff writer

Most Clarke students enjoy watching Clarke games not only to show support for their friends but also to have fun as well. However, circumstances may interfere with fans attending sporting events. One of the biggest factors is when the team has to travel. Audio webcams are now a way for Clarke students and the general public to experience the joy of hearing the Clarke Crusaders compete.

The website was launched on November 12, 2009 when the Clarke women's basketball team had a home game against Centralia College. One person who is excited about the live webcams is freshman student Jane Jackson. "I feel it gives us an opportunity to share our games with parents who are away from the country for both teams," she said. "It also have live home events he said. He if the popular broadcast continues to be other Clas

Agnes of God's Second Chance

sara prior
staff writer

Thirteen lucky Clarke students willingly came back from Christmas break this year an entire week early. In this week, the students worked hard on perfecting the art of loading and unloading the set for the Clarke production of "Agnes of God" in a quick and efficient manner.

The students, a mixture of drama majors and minors, were maneuvering the set in order to prepare for their upcoming participation in the Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival in Lawrence, Kansas January 18-23. At this festival, the students would perform the play "Agnes of God" twice. Judges would then critique their performances based on the performance of the show and how the crew loaded and unloaded their set.

"Agnes of God" were extremely honored by their presence at the Festival in Lawrence. Clarke was selected to perform at this festival after regional critics from the ACTF came to an initial performance of "Agnes of God" at Clarke last fall. The critics then told the Clarke drama department to "save the show." This meant that the "Agnes of God" production would have a strong chance of competing in the ACTF regional competition.

"Taking 'Agnes of God' to the ACTF was an amazing experience that I will remember for the rest of my life," said Erin Kane, who plays Agnes. "I was so proud of our whole department and how hard everyone worked to make taking this show to the festival possible."

“I was honored to be a part of the entire experience”

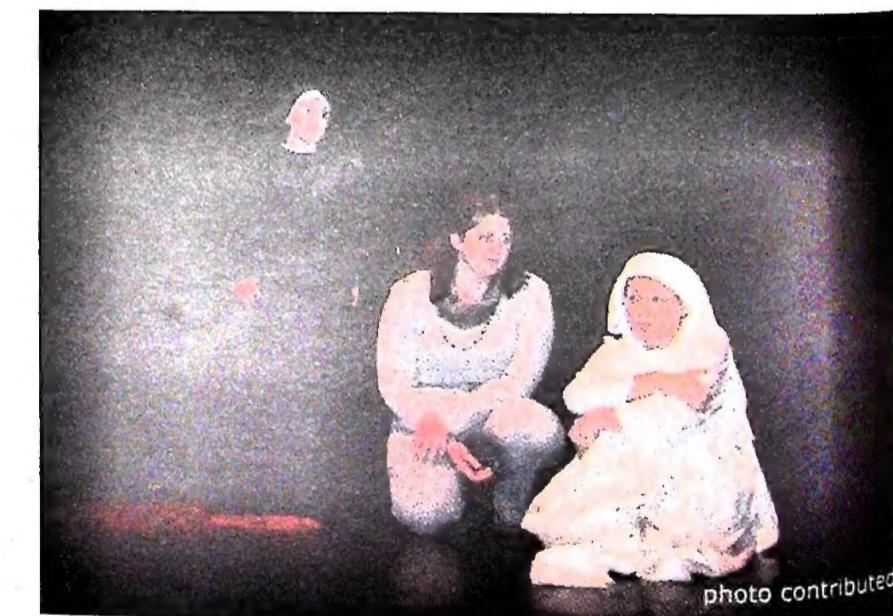
The students and faculty involved in the ACTF hoped for the ultimate win--an invite to perform the "Agnes of God" production in Washington D.C. at the national competition. The results will be released after all the regional performances take place.

Specific criteria included safety, smoothness, and efficiency in putting up and taking down the show. Overall effect, set, concept, costume, and performance by actors were the criteria for the performance of the show.

The students and faculty involved in "Ag-

nes of God" who played the psychiatrist, Valerie Heitzman, who played the psychiatrist, said, "The show was very exciting and special for all of us. We knew this was an honor, but it really hit home for me when everything was all said and done and I realized the effect it had on everyone involved including the audience. It has been a few years since a Clarke show has been brought to the festival and I was so honored and grateful to be in the cast and crew. This will forever be among my warmest memories."

Freshman drama and art major Kayla Damisch was a member of the crew.



Senior drama majors from left Allison Padley, Valerie Heitzman and Erin Kane perform in Clarke's production of "Agnes of God."

"I was honored to be a part of the entire experience," she said. "The experience was not only educational because we learned by doing additional performances but also because we watched other performances and went to workshops on various things in the drama world. I believe the set-up and take-down went smoothly along with the performance because of our previous preparation."

Drama department chair Carol Blitgen, BVM, said, "The drama faculty is so proud

of our students who worked so effectively and professionally. They proved that a little college can hold its own and make ART."

Drama professor Joe Kleinbriel, set and light designer Ellen Gabrieleschi and costumer Bob Newmann played a large part in the preparation for the production's appearance in Lawrence.

"It was a tremendous learning experience for the students--and they performed as well as or better than students from any major university," Gabrieleschi said. The students really made the experience happen!"

Touchdown Cardinals! Ari...
With friends after the C...

Feb. 5, 2009

Track season st...

kyrie miller
sports editor

The Clarke men's and women's track teams traveled to the University of Wisconsin-Platteville for their second evening meet and walked out with six new school records.

Sammy Leslie, Cedar Freund, Hanna Day, and Kiley Giech proved to be a formidable force for the students.

"We had to fast," Leslie said of the race. But the indoor track didn't seem to matter to the girls as they set the new record at 4 minutes and 11.17 seconds.

"We'll do even better outdoors," Leslie said. The ladies broke the record again in the 10 track meet with a time of 13:41.17. The winter didn't stop there. Senior Jessica

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Touchdown Cardinals! Ari...
With friends after the C...

—SPORTS—

7

Feb. 5, 2009

Track season starts with new records

kylee miller
sports editor

The Clarke men's and women's track teams traveled to the University of Wisconsin-Platteville for their season opening meet and walked out with six new school records.

Sammy Leslie, Carley Freund, Hanna Day, and Kelsey Gleich proved to be a formidable set when they broke Clarke's 4x400 meter records for indoors.

"In indoor, the turns are sharper and it's harder to be fast," Leslie said of the race. But the indoor track didn't seem to matter to the girls as they set the new record at 4 minutes and 21.17 seconds.

"We'll do even better outdoors," Leslie said. The ladies broke the record again in the UD track meet with a time of 13:41.17.

The women didn't stop there. Senior Jessica

Clegg set the bar in the 5000 meter with a time of 20 minutes and 52 seconds. Hanna Day moved on to her second record running a 27.87 second 200 meter dash, bringing the total up to three.

Not to be shown up, the men's team matched the women with three more records. Freshman Chris Nightengale took second in the 55 meter with a time of 6.61 as well as setting a new Clarke mark of 23.62 seconds in the 200 meter. Sophomore Russell ReVoir finished second in the 55-meter hurdles with a time of 8.32 seconds.

"You have to keep in mind that we're a very new program," sophomore Carley Freund said, "You can expect to see much better from us in the future."

Freshman Kelsey Gleich runs the 4x400m Saturday at UD.



photo by kelsey mcNames

Intramurals popular at Clarke

kylee miller
sports editor

Two hundred Clarke students participated in intramural sports last semester and the goal is to have even more in 2009.

The reason for Clarke's success is the involvement of all athletes in the off-season games. Unlike most schools, Clarke allows any student to play intramurals. Athletes can even play in their own sport. This means a Clarke volleyball team member can also play intramural volleyball.

Due to the possibility of injury and the competitiveness of the leagues, Clarke does limit the number of regular athletes who are allowed to play on each team. Intramural soccer teams will only allow a maximum of two regular players, male or female, to be on each team.

"Intramural sports leagues are a great way to stay in shape and meet new people in a friendly, competitive setting," said freshman track team member Kelsey McNames.

The following is a list of intramural sports, their sign-up deadlines, and the dates games will be played:

Sport:	Deadline:	Games:
Soccer	2/25	3/11, 18, 25 4/1
Ultimate	3/11	3/15, 22, 29
Frisbee		4/1
Volleyball	4/6	4/15, 22, 29

"Steeling" for a win

kylee miller
sports editor

We're still in it!" shouted sophomore Peter Rodriguez as the Cardinals' Larry Fitzgerald ran in for a touchdown in the fourth quarter. It seemed as if everyone was cheering for the Arizona Cardinals in their first Super Bowl appearance Sunday. Especially with Cardinals quarterback Kurt Warner being a UNI alumnus. But it wasn't enough to pull out a victory.

Clarke students gathered around the big screen set up in the SAC to watch the Pittsburgh Steelers take on the underdog Arizona Cardinals. The Crusader Café provided football-themed food for the party sponsored by CHAMPS, CREATE, and CAKE.

Super Bowl 43 did not disappoint. "It's locked up!" Steelers fan Jerusalem Strickland said in the last five minutes of the fourth quarter. But the Cardinals weren't going down without a fight. Their last touchdown put the score at 23-20. Two minutes remained on the clock as the Steelers made their last drive.

"He's in," Strickland said. Santonio Holmes caught a long pass and just barely kept in bounds for the game-winning touchdown with a score of 27-23. The Steelers are the first team in NFL history to win six Super Bowl titles.

"I wish we'd have won," Arizona native Brad Dahl said. "But we did what we could do. It was a good game."

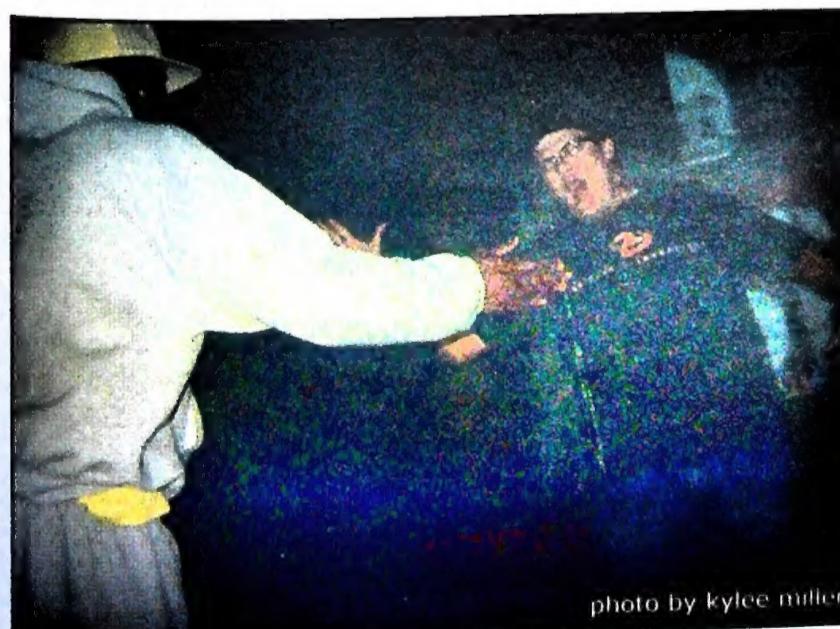


photo by kylee miller

Touchdown Cardinals! Arizona native Brad Dahl celebrates with friends after the Cardinals' fourth-quarter touchdown.

—EXTRAS—

Feb. 5, 2009

An affordable way to say...

10 Things I Love About You

justin haas
staff writer

Love is in the air because Valentine's Days is just around the corner. People will be showing that significant other how they truly feel about him or her. Living on a college student's budget may mean that you can't afford to go out and buy the most elegant jewelry or dine at an expensive restaurant. However, this doesn't mean you can't come up with a cheap, fun and effective gift idea for your valentine.

Whenever thinking about what you might do or get for your Valentine, it's safe to say dinner and a movie is out of the question. There is nothing special about sitting in a dark room for a couple hours and having to whisper, but going out to dinner is expensive depending on where you go. Obviously McDon-



alds or Taco Bell isn't exactly the ideal place for dinner on Valentine's Day, but that's not for me to decide.

Instead, how about making a Valentine's Day gift? Throwing together a handmade card at the last minute isn't exactly what I mean. Oftentimes only the negatives are brought up between couples and not the positives. It's just easier to point out the negatives in someone than the positives. With this gift idea, you'll be doing the exact opposite of that. Here's what you do:

Make a list of all the qualities you love about your Valentine. Now, narrow that list to 5 or 10 qualities.

Once you have the qualities, write your Valentine a personal letter describing how much he or she means to you and how he or she

has affected your life. Here's where it starts to get good. Write down each quality on a note card, post-it note or a small piece of paper and place with it an item representing the quality.

For example, if you love how funny your Valentine is, get her or him a joke book. If you love their smile get them a disposable camera so you can take pictures of that smile. Finally, if you love to hear them sing, put together a CD of all their favorite songs.

This is a meaningful and inexpensive gift idea for the average college student. Your Valentine will know it's from your heart and he/she will love you for it.

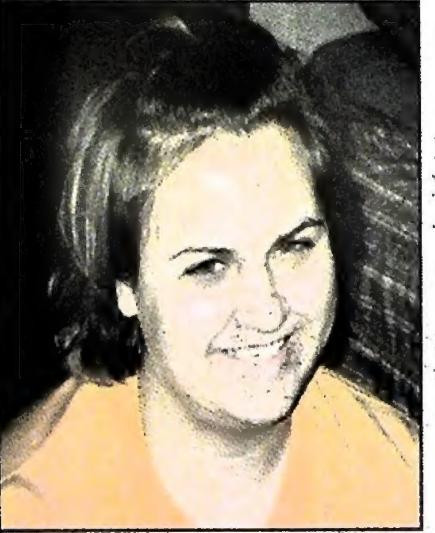
Obviously this is meant to be a fun and creative way to express the way you feel about your Valentine so have fun with it.

This is a cheap, fun and effective gift for your Valentine that won't break his or her heart or the bank.



On The Street

Where is the Cleanest/Best Bathroom in Dubuque?



Mary Frances Hall. I live there so I sure hope it is clean.
-Kelsey Kuepers, junior
Music education major



Borders at the mall, because that's where intelligent people go.
- Brett Renter, sophomore psychology
pre-PT major



The Diamond Jo Casino because it's new and hasn't had time to build up disgusting germs yet.
- Michelle Tranel, senior nursing major



Target because I work there and I make sure it is spic and span for myself.
- Courtney Townsend,
senior communication major